

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1259, VA ACCOUNTABILITY FIRST ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1367, IMPROVING AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO HIRE AND RETAIN PHYSICIANS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1181, VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BUCK from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-39) on the resolution (H. Res. 198) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1259) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1367) to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1181) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, we recognized National K9 Veterans Day. It was on March 13, 1942, that the U.S. Army K9 Corps was officially formed, although dogs have had a role in our military ever since our country's founding. We not only honor military dogs, but also police dogs, customs dogs, border patrol dogs, and other working dogs that work to protect our communities.

These dogs provide an incredible service to our brave men and women overseas. They are responsible for saving lives and preventing injuries, sometimes at their own expense.

Many of our servicemembers form very strong bonds with these loyal companions. That is why I authored the Military Working Dog Military Retirement Act and was proud to see it pass with overwhelming bipartisan support last Congress. This new law guarantees that service dogs are returned and retired to the United States after serving overseas. Previously, military members were often forced to spend their own money to bring these animals home.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember and honor these four-legged heroes. They are a valuable component of protecting Americans through their courage and their loyalty.

NOAA FUNDING

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the mission of NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, now under attack by the Trump administration.

An assault on NOAA, Mr. Speaker, is an assault on science. NOAA is a data-driven organization with proven research in the public interest. NOAA defends our coasts from the surges we have seen from Sandy, Irene, and other storms. NOAA's satellites keep watch day and night, providing up-to-the-second data to farmers, forecasters, and fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the Trump administration's denial of climate damage, but I do not understand it. Defunding NOAA, as the President's budget purportedly does, does not make our climate problems simply go away. The mission of NOAA isn't just about our environment. American businesses rely on its data every day to give them an economic advantage. After all, there is a reason NOAA is in the Department of Commerce to begin with.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN WOLD

(Ms. CHENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and former Member of this House, John Wold, of Casper, Wyoming, who passed away on February 19. Congressman Wold was a member of the Greatest Generation serving as a naval engineer during World War II. He also served Wyoming in our State legislature and as our Member of Congress. He was a leader and pioneer in the energy field, and he made numerous contributions, along with his incomparable wife, Jane, to our civic life and as a philanthropist.

I knew John my whole life. The friendship between our families goes back even farther. John was the oldest living former Member of Congress, and I was honored to receive his advice and counsel over the years.

I will never forget attending his 100th birthday this past summer in Casper and seeing the joy it brought him to be surrounded by so many of his wonderful children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

We will miss him, but the impact Congressman Wold had on our State and our Nation and the legacy of leadership and honor he leaves behind will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

SOUTH SUDAN

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, last month, the U.N. declared a famine in parts of South Sudan. As I rise today, more than 100,000 men, women, and children there are facing immediate starvation. Arguably, this was an avoidable crisis.

Internal conflicts have worsened the dire living conditions for the people of South Sudan, and the government of the Republic of South Sudan must live up to its promise and ensure access to the most vulnerable communities by humanitarian organizations. According to recent estimates, without immediate action, an additional 5.5 million people living in South Sudan will experience famine.

Although we haven't yet seen the President's budget, it is reported that there is a 37 percent decrease in foreign aid. This could include severe cuts to humanitarian funding.

In this regard, I introduced H. Res. 187 in support of the efforts by USAID and other providers of humanitarian assistance in the international community. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan resolution, and, by doing so, begin an end to this crisis.

CONGRATULATING THERESA BRYANT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Theresa Bryant, who is West Forsyth High School's 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year.

This first-generation college graduate, Kiwanis member, and Key Club adviser has worked at West Forsyth in Clemmons since 2000, where she teaches sophomore English and Shakespeare as an elective.

Theresa's proudest moment in the field of education is her role in the creation of the Shakespeare elective class. After an educational opportunity at the Globe Theatre in London, she worked with a colleague to create an intensive curriculum covering eight plays. The class has brought the words of the Bard to more than 4,000 students at West Forsyth, as well as four other schools in the district.

Theresa is known for her dedication to her students and making her lessons relevant to their different learning styles so everyone can understand the material.

We are lucky to have a teacher of her caliber serving students in North Carolina's Fifth District.

□ 2000

SOMEBODY ELSE'S BABIES

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, in every chapter from the story of America's success, we find countless examples of the contributions made by immigrants. In fact, it begins in our prologue: we are a nation founded by immigrants.

Yet, over the weekend, a Member of this House, Mr. KING of Iowa, said: "We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

There is nothing to restore. We are the greatest country in the world. But, worse, by disparaging the value of somebody else's babies, Mr. KING argues for an America void of people of color or who worship differently than he does. That is not who we are.

Behind me are a few small examples of somebody else's babies: people who immigrated to America or whose families immigrated to America, practicing many different faiths, coming from many different countries.

They include the daughter of Chinese immigrants who became one of America's most celebrated and best-selling authors, Amy Tan; the son of a Syrian migrant, Steve Jobs, who founded Apple; and the son of a Kenyan student, who recently finished two terms as the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

These are not somebody else's babies. These are immigrants and the children of immigrants, and they are our babies.

I was born and baptized in Sac City, Iowa, located in Mr. KING's district. It is where I learned from Exodus 22:21, "You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners." And from the Iowans I know, they were raised to accept and love the same way.

I hope my colleagues join me in denouncing bigoted, hateful, and divisive rhetoric, and let's celebrate the beautiful diversity that has always made our Nation shine: these beautiful "somebody else's babies" who are America's babies.

FREEING UP RESTRICTIVE FUEL MILEAGE STANDARDS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the President's decision to halt new EPA fuel mileage restrictions on the auto industry, also known as CAFE standards.

Speaking to auto industry workers in Detroit today, President Trump promised to reexamine stringent fuel efficiency rules that were hurried into place in the final days of the previous administration.

After committing to a review in 2018, the Obama administration changed course just before leaving office and decided to keep the requirements in place for model year vehicles 2022–2025. According to reviews by independent economists and engineers, these requirements would add at least an aver-

age of \$3,800 in costs per vehicle, even after supposed fuel savings were considered.

Even more, this vastly limits consumer choice, whether someone wants to buy a minivan to move their family or soccer team around, a farmer or contractor that needs a three-quarter-ton pickup to do his or her job, or maybe somebody that would just like to buy a sporty car.

Even worse, it is entirely unclear whether existing technology even allows the 60 percent jump from the 2016 requirement of 34.1 miles per gallon to reach the almost 55-mile-per-gallon requirement in only seven model years to 2025 without sacrificing safety and, yet again, eviscerating consumer choice.

The President's decision to fully review these requirements will result in lower vehicle costs, allow safer vehicles, and boost our U.S. economy by supporting domestic manufacturing.

THE TRUTH MUST BE TOLD

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me join my colleagues, first of all, and say that this country is made up of somebody else's babies; and I am very proud to be an American who sees the great talent of these babies who have become great leaders, such as teachers, scientists, doctors, lawyers, and members who do public service. Thank you to somebody else's babies.

Let me also congratulate the district court in Hawaii, which has just rendered a decision to block the President's Muslim ban again. Thank you for that wise and deliberative decision.

I rise today in particular to really ask and wonder where we are in this country that a President of the United States can, first, tweet out that a former President committed a criminal felony: wiretapping.

In the last 48 hours, there is mish-mash of information coming from the press secretary or the director of communications and the President: Oh, maybe it was not wiretapping by the President of the United States formally, but it is generally wiretapping.

Mr. President, let me be very clear: the words of the Commander in Chief are known to carry great weight. It is the American people that have to trust and believe and be commanded and led.

I am saddened by the state that we are in right now. I am saddened that there is one position one day and another position another day. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, we cannot tolerate that kind of mismatched conversation. The truth must be told. The American people must know it, Members of Congress must know it. I believe committees should be investigating if there was a wiretap or not and if there was an action by the former President. If not, tell the truth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). The Chair would remind

Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING TRINITY UNITED METHODIST ON ITS 200TH YEAR

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Trinity United Methodist Church in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, marks its 200th year as a house of worship.

Founded in April of 1817, the church congregation began with just seven people. Schoolmaster and Methodist layman James McGee led the first meeting. Over the years, Trinity's congregation has steadily grown, and today it boasts 200 members. The current church was built in 1875, and in 1962, an educational building was added on.

The church plays an important role in the Bellefonte community and it organizes several programs throughout the year, including a free community lunch, a New Year's Day dinner, free public concerts, and a toy drive before Christmas for children in need.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 200 years, Trinity United Methodist Church has opened its doors for people to hear the Word of the Lord, but a church is much more than a building. It brings a love of God into the community and into the hearts of those who fill the seats each Sunday.

God bless Trinity United Methodist Church on the momentous occasion of its bicentennial.

BULLY BUSTERS

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a group of 11- and 12-year-old girls from my district who have noticed an unsettling trend in modern politics and who are absolutely determined to do something about it. They see bullying from leaders who are supposed to be their role models. They witness fear, intimidation, and vitriol being thrown at religious minorities, LGBTQ people, women, immigrants, communities of color. And, yes, I am also somebody else's baby.

In the face of this hate, these girls have decided to take action by forming the D.C. Bully Busters. These change-making girls, not even old enough to vote yet, but certainly old enough to make their voices heard, have vowed to stand up against the bullying they are seeing in American politics.

Mr. Speaker, if grade-schoolers can say that bullying, intimidation, and silently standing by are cowardly tactics that have no place in politics, then the adults who represent them must be courageous enough to do the same thing.